

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 040755Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2103
INFO USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV HU UR
SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN MEDIA TREATMENT OF KADAR-BREZHNEV MEETING

1. ON JULY 29, ALL MAJOR HUNGARIAN DAILY PAPERS CARRIED A TASS ARTICLE ENTITLED, "FRIENDLY MEETING OF JANOS KADAR AND LEONID BREZHNEV IN THE CRIMEA." THE ARTICLE GAVE DETAILS OF THE MEETING, WHICH INCLUDED AN EMPHASIS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET AGRICULTURE, DISCUSSION OF THE HUNGARIAN FIVE-YEAR PLAN, HUNGARIAN-SOVIET COOPERATION ON A BILATERAL AS WELL AS CEMA LEVEL, AND RECENT PROBLEMS OF WORLD POLITICS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE ARMS RACE AND DISARMAMENT. THE ARTICLE ENDS WITH A PARAGRAPH "FIRMLY DISAPPROVING OF CHINESE ATTEMPTS AT INTERVENTION INTO THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF OTHER NATIONS" (READ VIETNAM).

2. ON AUG 1, NEPSZABADSAG CARRIED A LEAD EDITORIAL APPLAUDING
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THE KADAR-BREZHNEV MEETING AND POINTING OUT THAT THE CRIMEA MEETING IS AN ANNUAL AFFAIR OF "SPECIAL IMPORTANCE." THE EDITORIAL COVERED ABOUT THE SAME GROUND AS THE TASS ARTICLE AS CONCERNS SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING, BUT ALSO SAID THAT THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION HAS BECOME IN MANY RESPECTS MORE DIFFICULT THAN BEFORE AND . . . RETROGRADE AND ANTI-DETENTE FORCES ARE GETTING MORE AND MORE ACTIVE." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH THE STATEMENT THAT THE

MEETING WAS CONDUCTED IN A WARM AND TRULY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AND THAT HUNGARIAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP.

3. COMMENT. THE FINAL STATEMENT IN THE NEPSZABADSAG EDITORIAL SEEMED TO BE MORE THAN THE USUAL TESTIMONIAL EXTOLLING THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN HUNGARY AND THE SOVIET UNION. ANOTHER UNUSUAL MENTION WAS MADE ON A POPULAR TV SATIRICAL PROGRAM WHICH CARRIED AN ITEM ON THE CRIMEA KADAR-BREZHNEV MEETING, SAYING ONLY THAT IMPORTANT PERSONS HAD MET THERE AND THAT THE CLIMATE WAS SUPERB. ALTHOUGH THESE ARE THE ONLY TWO REFERENCES WE KNOW ABOUT AT THIS TIME, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THERE IS SOME ATTEMPT BEING MADE TO ASSURE THAT HUNGARIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS HAVE NEVER BEEN BETTER.
KAISER

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